

Introduced by Senators Cogdill and Denham

February 21, 2008

An act to amend Section 5007 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1455, as introduced, Cogdill. Disabled person and disabled veteran license plates.

Under existing law, the Department of Motor Vehicles is required, upon application and without additional fees, to issue a special license plate or plates to a disabled person or disabled veteran, in accordance with procedures adopted by the department. Existing law also provides that organizations and agencies involved in the transportation of disabled persons or disabled veterans may apply for a distinguishing placard for each vehicle that is used for the purpose of transporting disabled persons or disabled veterans.

This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change to these provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 5007 of the Vehicle Code is amended to
- 2 read:
- 3 5007. (a) The department shall, upon application and without
- 4 additional fees, issue a special license plate or plates pursuant to
- 5 procedures adopted by the department to the following:
- 6 (1) A disabled person.

1 (2) A disabled veteran.

2 (3) An organization or agency involved in the transportation of
3 disabled persons or disabled veterans if the vehicle that will have
4 the special license plate is used solely for the purpose of
5 transporting those persons.

6 (b) The special license plates issued under subdivision (a) shall
7 run in a regular numerical series that shall include one or more
8 unique two-letter codes reserved for disabled person license plates
9 or disabled veteran license plates. The International Symbol of
10 Access adopted pursuant to Section 3 of Public Law 100-641,
11 commonly known as the “wheelchair symbol” shall be depicted
12 on each plate.

13 (c) (1) Prior to issuing a special license plate to a disabled
14 person or disabled veteran, the department shall require the
15 submission of a certificate, in accordance with paragraph (2),
16 signed by the physician and surgeon, or to the extent that it does
17 not cause a reduction in the receipt of federal aid highway funds,
18 by a nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife, or physician
19 assistant, substantiating the disability, unless the applicant’s
20 disability is readily observable and uncontested. The disability of
21 a person who has lost, or has lost use of, one or more lower
22 extremities or one hand, for a disabled veteran, or both hands for
23 a disabled person, or who has significant limitation in the use of
24 lower extremities, may also be certified by a licensed chiropractor.
25 The blindness of an applicant shall be certified by a licensed
26 physician and surgeon who specializes in diseases of the eye or a
27 licensed optometrist. The physician and surgeon, nurse practitioner,
28 certified nurse midwife, physician assistant, chiropractor, or
29 optometrist certifying the qualifying disability shall provide a full
30 description of the illness or disability on the form submitted to the
31 department.

32 (2) The physician and surgeon, nurse practitioner, certified nurse
33 midwife, physician assistant, chiropractor, or optometrist who
34 signs a certificate submitted under this subdivision shall retain
35 information sufficient to substantiate that certificate and, upon
36 request of the department, shall make that information available
37 for inspection by the Medical Board of California or the appropriate
38 regulatory board.

39 (d) A disabled person or disabled veteran issued a license plate
40 or plates under this section shall, upon request, present to a peace

1 officer, or person authorized to enforce parking laws, ordinances,
2 or regulations,—a *the* certification form that substantiates the
3 eligibility of the disabled person or veteran to possess the plate or
4 plates. The certification shall be on a form prescribed by the
5 department and contain the name of the disabled person or disabled
6 veteran to whom the plate or plates were issued, and the name,
7 address, and telephone number of the medical professional
8 described in subdivision (c) who certified the eligibility of the
9 person or veteran for the plate or plates.

10 (e) The certification requirements of subdivisions (c) and (d)
11 do not apply to an organization or agency that is issued a special
12 license plate or plates under paragraph (3) of subdivision (a).

13 (f) The special license plate shall, upon the death of the disabled
14 person or disabled veteran, be returned to the department within
15 60 days or upon the expiration of the vehicle registration,
16 whichever occurs first.

17 (g) When a vehicle subject to paragraph (3) of subdivision (a)
18 is sold or transferred, the special license plate or plates issued to
19 an organization or agency under paragraph (3) of subdivision (a)
20 for that vehicle shall be immediately returned to the department.